

1 Claims

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- 3 1. A water purification apparatus having an inlet
4 and an outlet, and at least one water
5 purification means thereinbetween, wherein the
6 outlet includes at least a first release means
7 and a second water release means, the first
8 release means being operable at a first flow
9 rate, and the second release means being
10 operable at a second flow rate.
- 11
- 12 2. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
13 Claim 1 wherein the outlet includes further
14 water release means.
- 15
- 16 3. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
17 Claims 1 or 2 wherein the rate of release of
18 water through the outlet is controlled by the
19 first flow rate, or the second flow rate, or a
20 combination thereof.
- 21
- 22 4. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
23 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
24 first flow rate is different to the second flow
25 rate.
- 26
- 27 5. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
28 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
29 water release means operate in parallel.
- 30
- 31 6. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
32 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the

1 water release means provide alternative flow
2 paths for water through the outlet.

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4 7. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
5 any one of the preceding Claims wherein each
6 water release means is independently
7 controllable from the or every other water
8 release means.

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10 8. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
11 any one of the preceding Claims wherein at
12 least one water release means is operable at a
13 relatively slow flow rate and at least one
14 other water release means is operable at a
15 relatively fast flow rate.

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17 9. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
18 Claim 8 wherein the at least one water release
19 means is operable at a relatively slow flow
20 rate of up to 0.1 litres per minute, the at
21 least one other water release means is operable
22 at a relatively fast flow rate of up to 2
23 litres per minute.

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25 10. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
26 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
27 operation and/or flow rate of at least one
28 water release means is wholly or substantially
29 dependant upon the operation and/or flow rate
30 through at least one other water release means.

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- 1 11. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
2 any one of Claims 8 to 10 wherein the operation
3 of the relatively fast flow rate water means is
4 dependent upon operation of the relatively slow
5 flow rate water release means.
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- 7 12. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
8 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
9 apparatus includes one or more water pumps.
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- 11 13. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
12 Claim 12 wherein the or each pump is linked
13 with one or more of the water release means.
14
- 15 14. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
16 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
17 water release means are operable automatically.
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- 19 15. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
20 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
21 apparatus includes a control means for
22 controlling the outlet flow and flow rate
23 through all the release means.
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- 25 16. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
26 Claim 15 wherein the control means is pre-
27 programmed to calculate the rate of flow
28 through each release means.
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- 30 17. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
31 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
32 degree of operation of each water release means

1 is dependent upon the amount or volume of water
2 to be dispensed through the outlet.

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4 18. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
5 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
6 apparatus includes a recirculation system to
7 provide recirculation around at least a part of
8 the apparatus of any water treated by the or
9 each water purification means.

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11 19. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
12 Claim 18 wherein the recirculation unit
13 includes one or more pressure-sustaining means
14 to maintain outlet pressure.

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16 20. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
17 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
18 apparatus includes one or more alarm means to
19 provide a signal concerning the flow rate of
20 the outlet and/or the flow rate of one or more
21 of the water release means.

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23 21. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
24 any one of the preceding Claims adapted to
25 provide a pre-set volume of water by automatic
26 operation of one or each relevant water release
27 means.

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29 22. A water purification apparatus as claimed in
30 any one of the preceding Claims wherein the
31 release means are valves.

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- 1 23. A method for dispensing water from a water
2 purification apparatus as defined in any one of
3 Claims 1 to 20 wherein the dispense of water
4 from the outlet is controlled through at least
5 one of the water release means.
6
- 7 24. A method of dispensing water as claimed in
8 Claim 23 wherein the apparatus includes a pump
9 which is automatically controlled by a control
10 means.
11
- 12 25. A method for dispensing water as claimed in
13 Claim 23 wherein the water is provided by a
14 first water release means having a relatively
15 fast flow rate followed by a second water
16 release means having a relatively slow flow
17 rate.
18
- 19 26. A method of dispensing water as claimed in
20 Claim 24 wherein the second water release means
21 provides an initial relatively slow
22 dispensement prior to the dispensement from the
23 first release means.
24
- 25 27. A water purification apparatus substantially as
26 herein described and with reference to Figure
27 1.